

REMARKS

Applicants reply to the Office Action dated April 30, 2007, within the shortened three month statutory period for reply. Claims 1-20 were pending in the application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-20. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over Scolini et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0233321 ("Scolini"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Scolini generally discloses an electronic, integrated invoice platform capable of incorporating complex large-scale hierarchical billing files from multiple legacy systems into a single data stream. The Scolini system processes this data stream to provide a view of the data according to an organization's hierarchical structure.

The Scolini system serves as an independent invoice platform that can connect with a number of banking systems and corporate legacy systems to retrieve data and compile billing statements and invoices on behalf of a number of large corporate clients. Scolini further discloses that the clients may interact with the invoice platform to generally obtain invoices by way of the Internet. As such, clients may access the Scolini system to perform, for example, customer service operations where fast access to account information is critical.

Scolini may disclose the general ability to format invoices; however, Scolini does not disclose the online ability to review, correct, regenerate, or delete invoices prior to generating and printing. Rather, Scolini is primarily concerned with the problem of collecting and combining large amounts of data and presenting it to clients in a convenient and understandable manner (e.g., presentation). Scolini generally discloses performing a review of the raw collected data to detect errors prior to generating an invoice. Applicants note, however, that a review of raw data files prior to the generation of the invoice is not the same as performing a review of a completed invoice. In fact, Scolini discloses that one of the features of the invention is that, "no professional auditors needed to review invoices" (paragraph 0150). **In other words, Scolini teaches away from the present invention in that Scolini does not contemplate any review of invoices, regardless of the procedure, because the Scolini system focuses on an earlier step, namely, requiring a superior review of raw data, thereby rendering a review of any resulting invoices unnecessary. Applicants assert that this difference**


alone is significant, as many errors may be created during an invoice generation process, even when no errors are detected in the raw data files. For example, the raw data files may contain information that are improperly parsed and/or concatenated with other data when generating an invoice.

Moreover, because Scolini is not concerned with the problem of performing a quality review of completed invoices, Scolini is further not concerned with flagging individual invoices as to eliminate the need for a quality review for those flagged invoices. Practitioners would appreciate that performing a quality review on a large number of invoices would be a time consuming and expensive task. Therefore, it would be beneficial to flag certain invoices in order to enable the system to remove certain invoices from a review queue based on any number of factors such as, for example, the low level of complexity of an invoice. As such, Scolini does not disclose or suggest at least, "preventing the batch printing until individual account statements are approved and released for printing" and "releasing one of the individual account statements when the one of the individual account statements is associated with a flag indicating that a review is not required," as similarly recited by independent claims 1, 17, and 18.

Dependent claims 2-16, 19, and 20 variously depend from independent claims 1, 17, and 18. As such, dependent claims 2-16, 19, and 20 are allowable for at least the reasons set forth above, as well as in view of their own respective features.

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims properly set forth that which Applicant regards as his invention and are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience, if that would help further prosecution of the subject application. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees due to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

Respectfully submitted,



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